Review of labour laws

3452. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour has recommended for consolidation and reduction in labour law in the country;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to review the existing labour laws; and

(d) by when, Government are expecting the report of second Labour Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Review/updation of Labour Laws is a continuous process in order to make them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs. Taking into consideration the emerging global economic situation and particularly after the introduction of new economic policy in 1991 by the Government of India, the need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour legislations so as to bring them in tune with the market oriented economy giving the domestic industry a level playing field to face the global competition.

(d) The Second National Commission on Labour set up to suggest rationalization of labour laws in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for the unorganised sector, is required to submit its report by October, 2001.

Accountability of trade unions

3453. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make trade unions more accountable by enacting a legislation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal from the Indian Chambers of Commerce and trade unions on labour reforms in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Amendment proposals in the Trade Unions Act, 1926 are under consideration of the Government. The Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 2001 has been passed by the Rajya Sabha on 2.8.2001. In the proposed amendments, *inter-alia* there are provisions that office bearers of the trade unions will be elected and their duration will not be more than 3 years, the proportion of office bearers to be connected with the industry to be enhanced from 1/2 to 2/3rd of the total number of office bearers.

(c) to (e) A representation from the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Coimbatore, has been received. In their letter, they have brought to the notice of the Government the announcements made by the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister in his budget speech on 28.2.2001 regarding amendments in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. These suggestions have been noted.

Child labourers in hotels, dhabas, etc.

† 3454. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons that inspite of the child labour laws in force there are, no signs of reduction in the number of child labourers working in Hotels, Dhabas and on the roads;

(b) whether Government have taken any measures to prevent it; and

(c) whether there is any provision for strict punishment for those who violate labour laws; if so, the reasons for non implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL); (a) to (c) Employment of children below the age of 14, is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed in the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & regulation) Act, 1986. The employment conditions of children in other Occupations and Processes are regulated under the Act. The schedule does not include children working in Hotels, Dhabas and on the road.

Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the welfare and rehabilitation of child labourers namely, the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP's) and the scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisation. Under the Scheme of NCLP, 100 projects are under implementation in child labour endemic states for the benefit of about 2.10 lakh children withdrawn from work.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.